nally aided nuclear and missile programme. Based on our own threat perceptions, Government are committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard national security.

Government's concerns regarding the Pakistani nuclear and missile programme have been stated publicly and will be reiterated in future talks with Pakistan.

Treaty for stoppage of nuclear tests

2510. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 190, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the recent weapons related test conducted by USA demonstrates that Nuclear weapons States continue to rely on nuclear weapons and their programme, to further develop and refine nuclear weapons technology; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to bring about an international treaty providing for stopping of nuclear tests and phased elimination of nuclear weapons; within a time-bound framework?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a press statement on July 5, 1997, Government took note of the "sub-critical" test conducted by the United States on July 2, 1997 and expressed concern that the sub-critical nuclear test has been justified "as an activity permitted under the CTBT". India has been consistently pointing out in both bilateral and international fora that the CTBT in its present form contains loopholes and without being placed in the context of a phased programme for global nuclear disarmament serves only a discriminatory non-proliferation intent rather than the urgent goal of global nuclear disarmament. India believes that a nuclear weapons-free world will enhance our national security as well as global security. India, along with other Non-aligned countries has called for early commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a phased programme for elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame.

Deployment of Half-III missiles near Indian border

2511. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about Pakistan's acquiring nuclear warheads for its medium range missiles, as reported in PIONEER, dated the 10th July, 1997;

(b) whether Pakistan had tested Half-III missiles; if so, the firing range thereof;

(c) whether these missiles have been deployed near the Indian border if so, the details of actual deployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is deeply concerned over reports in the Pakistan media that Pakistan has test fired a medium-range missile.

(c) Government are aware of credible reports in this regard. The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. Our concerns regarding Pakistan's acquisition of M-11 missiles have been conveyed to the concerned countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interest.

Security of the investigating team in Dubai

2512. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received information that some Dubai-based